

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SAIGON 07549 011332 Z

47

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-12 IO-12 DPW-01 AID-20 RSR-01 /140 W
----- 076017

R 011145 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1010

INFO AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

USDEL JEC PARIS

CINCPAC

USSAG

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 7549

E. O. 11652 GDS

TAGS MARR, VS, VN

SUBJECT: RETURN OF POLISH DELEGATE WASILEWSKI

1. AMBASSADOR WASILEWSKI, WHO HAS JUST RETURNED FROM WARSAW, HAD A SHORT CONVERSATION WITH WHITEHOUSE YESTERDAY. IT WOULD APPEAR THAT THE DEPARTMENT'S DEMARCHES IN WARSAW HAVE HAD SOME EFFECT AS WASILEWSKI WENT OUT OF HIS WAY TO PROJECT AN IMAGE OF REASONABLENESS.

2. WASILEWSKI COMMENTED THAT COMMENCING MAY 1 ST HE WOULD BE THE CHAIRMAN OF THE ICCS AND THAT THERE WERE SEVERAL MATTERS WHICH WOULD BE CARRIED OVER FROM THE APRIL MEETINGS. WHITEHOUSE SAID THAT THE LAO BAO HELICOPTER INVESTIGATION WAS OBVIOUSLY ONE OF THESE AND COMMENTED THAT THE TRUCULENCE AND STUBBORNNESS OF THE PRG THROUGHOUT THIS INCIDENT HAD BEEN HARD TO UNDERSTAND. WASILEWSKI AGREED THAT THE PRG HAD BEEN VERY DIFFICULT. THEIR FUNDAMENTAL PROBLEM WAS THEIR ALMOST TOTAL LACK OF TRUST FOR ANY OTHER GOVERNMENT OR INSTITUTION.

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PAGE 02 SAIGON 07549 011332 Z

3. IN DISCUSSING PRG SUSPICIOUSNESS WASILEWSKI STATED THAT HE HAD SPENT SEVERAL DAYS IN HANOI ON HIS WAY TO SAIGON AS HE HAD HAD TO TRAVEL AS FAR AS HE COULD " ON RUBLES." HE HAD TAKEN ADVANTAGE OF HIS STAY IN HANOI TO DISCUSS THE SITUATION IN SOUTH VIETNAM WITH UNNAMED LEADERS OF THE DRV AND HE STATED HE BELIEVED HE HAD HELPED TO MAKE THEM TAKE A MORE REALISTIC ATTITUDE. HE SAID THAT HE HAD ENJOINED THE DRV TO PERSUADE THE PRG TO TAKE A MORE FORTHCOMING POSITION ON VARIOUS MATTERS. WASILEWSKI OPINED THAT HANOI WAS FAR MORE REASONABLE AND FLEXIBLE THAN WAS THE PRG WHO WERE EVEN MISTRUSTFUL OF HANOI.

4. WASILEWSKI SAID THAT ONE OF THE PROBLEMS FACING THE POLISH DELEGATION WAS THE NEED TO GAIN THE CONFIDENCE OF THE PRG SO THAT IT COULD EXERCISE SOME INFLUENCE OVER IT TO HELP BRING ABOUT AN END TO HOSTILITIES. WHITEHOUSE COMMENTED THAT HIS DESIRE TO ENGENDER A FEELING OF CONFIDENCE APPEARED IN SOME CASES TO HAVE GONE TOO FAR AND CITED SEVERAL BLATANT CEASE- FIRE VIOLATIONS WHICH ANY REASONABLE PERSON WOULD REALIZE HAD BEEN COMMITTED BY THE PRG/ DRV. WASILEWSKI REPLIED THAT GIVEN THE FACT THAT THE LINES OF DEMARKATION WERE UNCLEAR IT WAS OFTEN VERY HARD TO ESTABLISH THE FACTS AND HE CITED THE ACT OF TERRORISM IN A PAGODA IN THE DELTA AS AN EXAMPLE OF A CASE IN WHICH THE FACTS WERE CLOUDY. WHITEHOUSE REPLIED THAT OTHER INCIDENTS SUCH AS THE SHELLING OF HONG NHU SEEMED TO HIM PRETTY CLEAR CUT AND THAT IT WAS PREPOSTEROUS TO SUPPOSE THAT ARVN WOULD FIRE CAPTURED ROCKETS AT ITS OWN TOWN.

5. WASILEWSKI SAID THAT HE INTENDED TO WORK VERY HARD TO ACHIEVE SOME DEGREE OF RECONCILIATION BETWEEN THE BELLIGERENTS AND EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT THE GVN WOULD SOON PERMIT THE PRG DEL TO MOVE INTO A VILLA ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF SAIGON. HE SAID THIS WAS AN IMPORTANT PSYCHOLOGICAL STEP WHICH MIGHT WELL BRING ABOUT A GREATER SENSE OF CONFIDENCE AMONG THE PRG DELEGATES. HE AGREED WITH WHITEHOUSE THAT WERE SUCH A MOVE TO BE MADE THE PRG WOULD HAVE TO BE CAREFULLY GUARDED AND THAT THE PRG DEL WOULD CLEARLY NOT BE ABLE TO FLY THEIR FLAG, PROPAGANDIZE OR CARRY OUT OTHER ACTIVITIES OBNOXIOUS TO THE GVN. WHITEHOUSE SAID THAT HE KNEW THAT THE GVN HAD GIVEN CONSIDERATION TO SUCH A MOVE AND THAT IN SUCH MATTERS AS ACCESS TO THE PRESS THE GVN APPEARED TO BE MODIFYING ITS PREVIOUS RESTRICTIONS. WASILEWSKI DID NOT DISAGREE WHEN WHITEHOUSE NOTED THAT THE PRESS CONFERENCES OF THE PRG
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PAGE 03 SAIGON 07549 011332 Z

WHICH HAD ORIGINALLY CREATED A LOT OF INTEREST HAD NOW BECOME TOTALLY INCONSEQUENTIAL.

6. WHITEHOUSE TOLD WASILEWSKI THAT THE QUESTION OF MIAS WAS ONE OF PARTICULAR INTEREST TO THE USG AND SAID THAT ANYTHING THE AMBASSADOR COULD DO TO PERSUADE THE PRG/ DRV TO BE COOPERATIVE WOULD BE GREATLY APPRECIATED. HE NOTED THAT THE DRV WAS BEING HELPFUL WITH REGARD TO THE RECOVERY OF BODIES FROM HANOI BUT

THAT MUCH REMAINED TO BE DONE TO INVESTIGATE CRASHES AND IDENTIFY MIA. WASILEWSKI WAS SYMPATHETIC AND SAID HE WOULD DO WHAT HE COULD.

7. WASILEWSKI CLOSED THE CONVERSATION BY EXPRESSING REGRET THAT HE HAD NOT YET HAD A CHANCE TO HAVE LONG AND SERIOUS TALKS WITH WHITEHOUSE AND THEY AGREED TO MEET AGAIN IN THE NEAR FUTURE.
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